

ORIGINAL

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S)
CERTIFICATION OF RURAL CARRIERS')
ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE FEDERAL)
HIGH-COST UNIVERSAL SUPPORT,)
PURSUANT TO THE TELECOMMUNI-)
CATIONS ACT OF 1996, THE FCC'S MAY 23,)
2001 ORDER, AND OTHER RELATED FCC)
ORDERS)

CAUSE NO. 42067

APPROVED: SEP 19 2007

BY THE COMMISSION:

David E. Ziegner, Commissioner

Lorraine Hitz-Bradley, Administrative Law Judge

On May 23, 2001, the Federal Communications Commission issued an Order¹ ("the FCC's RTF Order") assigning to state commissions the responsibility of certifying whether rural carriers are using federal high-cost support in a manner consistent with the requirements of Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Pursuant to Section 254(e), carriers must use universal service support "only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." The FCC's RTF Order provided that state certifications should be submitted by October 1 each year for payments to be made during the following calendar year. If a rural carrier is not certified by its state commission, it will not receive federal high-cost support.

In order to carry out the FCC's directive, this Commission issued a consolidated order in this Cause and Cause No. 40785 prescribing forms to be filled out and procedures to be followed by those rural carriers seeking certification. Upon reviewing the applications submitted by rural carriers seeking certification, the Commission has since issued orders annually in this Cause certifying the eligibility of Indiana rural carriers to receive federal high-cost support. The passage of HEA 1279 in March 2006 codified the Commission's responsibility "concerning universal service and access to telecommunications service and equipment, including the designation of eligible telecommunications carriers under 47 U.S.C. 214." I.C. 8-1-2.6-13(d)(5).

The FCC has recently issued a Report and Order regarding the long-term management of the universal service programs. *In the Matter of Comprehensive Review of the Universal Service Fund Management, Administration, and Oversight*, FCC 07-150 (adopted Aug. 22, 2007, rel. Aug. 29, 2007.) Among a number of more stringent requirements was the addition of a requirement for high-cost support recipients to "retain all records that they may require to demonstrate to auditors that the support they received was consistent with the Act and the Commission's rules[.]" *Id.* at ¶24. The documents included, "without limitation", data

¹ *In the Matter of Federal-State Board on Universal Service and the MAG Plan, Fourteenth Report and Order*, CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256.

supporting the calculation of line counts; customer records; fixed asset accounting documents; invoices and contracts for the purchase and maintenance of equipment or its upgrading; ledgers; and any other relevant documentation pertaining to the use of universal service funds. *Id.* The Commission therefore takes this opportunity to advise carriers that such documentation must be maintained, consistent with FCC mandates. Further, the Commission may request such documentation in the future to assure that carriers' costs are compliant and that carriers are therefore eligible for certification.

Upon reviewing the completed applications, the Commission now finds that the attached applications that have been submitted demonstrate the requisite compliance with the requirements of Section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as interpreted by the FCC's RTF Order and this Commission's August 22, 2001 Order. More specifically, based on the completed applications, we find that all entities listed in Attachment A to this Order will be using federal high-cost support only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended, consistent with Section 254 (e) of the Communications Act.

In accordance with the FCC's RTF Order, we direct the Commission's Secretary to inform the Universal Services Administrative Company ("USAC") and the FCC that this Commission has certified that the carriers identified in Attachment A to this Order have met the requirements of Section 254(e) and the FCC's RTF Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION that:

1. The Indiana carriers identified in Attachment A to this Order shall be, and hereby are, certified by this Commission as having satisfied the requirements of Section 254(e) and the FCC's RTF Order.
2. The Commission's Secretary shall inform the FCC and USAC by October 1, 2007 that the aforementioned Indiana carriers have been so certified.
3. The Commission's Secretary shall forward a copy of this Order to all carriers identified in Attachment A.
4. This Order shall be effective on and after the date of its approval.

HARDY, GOLC, LANDIS, SERVER AND ZIEGNER CONCUR:

APPROVED: SEP 19 2007

**I hereby certify that the above is a true
and correct copy of the Order as approved.**


Brenda A. Howe
Secretary to the Commission

Attachment A
2008 Carrier Certification List
IURC Cause No. 42067

Bloomington Home Telephone Co.	HLS-8
Camden Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-7
Centennial Companies	HLS-46
Century Telephone of Central Indiana, Inc.	HLS-9
Century Telephone of Odon, Inc.	HLS-10
Citizens Telephone Corp.	HLS-11
Clay County Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.	HLS-12
Communications Corp. of Indiana	HLS-3
Communications Corp. of Southern Indiana	HLS-4
Craigville Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-13
Daviess-Martin County Rural Telephone Corp.	HLS-30
Frontier Communications of Indiana, Inc.	HLS-14
Frontier Communications of Thorntown, Inc.	HLS-15
Geetingsville Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-16
Hancock Rural Telephone Corp.	HLS-33
Hancock Communications, Inc.	HLS-42
Home Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-6
Home Telephone Company of Pittsboro, Inc.	HLS-5
Ligonier Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-29
Merchants & Farmers Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-36
Monon Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-17
Mulberry Cooperative Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-18
New Lisbon Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-19
New Paris Telephone, Inc.	HLS-31
Northwestern Indiana Telephone Co. Inc.	HLS-38
NPCR, Inc.	HLS-43
Perry-Spencer Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.	HLS-32
Pulaski-White Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.	HLS-20
Rochester Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-35
S&W Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-21
Smithville Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-1
Sprintcom and Wirelesco d/b/a Sprint PCS	HLS-47
Southeastern Indiana Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.	HLS-22
Sunman Telecommunications Corp.	HLS-23
Swayzee Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-24
Sweetser Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-25
Tipton Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-2
Tri-County Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-34
Verizon North, Inc. and Contel of the South, Inc. d/b/a Verizon North Systems- Alltel Study Area	HLS-40
Washington County Rural Telephone Coop., Inc.	HLS-26
West Point Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-27
Yeoman Telephone Co., Inc.	HLS-28